



2007 California Vehicle Theft Facts

VEHICLE THEFTS

- In 2007, 227,412 vehicles were stolen. The estimated total value of the vehicles was approximately \$1.4 billion. (This figure is based on the average replacement value established by the Federal Bureau of Investigation).
- Of the vehicles stolen in 2007, 60 percent were automobiles, 29 percent were personal trucks and vans, 3 percent were motorcycles, and 4 percent were commercial trucks and trailers. All other vehicles (recreational vehicles, construction and farm equipment, etc.) accounted for 4 percent.
- Most popular theft targets:

Autos

Honda Accord
Honda Civic
Toyota Camry

Motorcycles

Honda
Yamaha
Suzuki

Pickups and Vans

Toyota Pickup
Chevrolet Pickup
Nissan Pickup

Commercial Trucks

Freightliner
Kenworth
Peterbilt

Recreational Vehicles

All Terrain Vehicle (wheels only)
Special Golf Cart
All Terrain Vehicle (tracks and wheels)

Trailers

Utility Trailer
Caterpillar Utility Trailer
Homemade Utility Trailer

WHERE THE THEFTS OCCURRED

- Approximately 55 percent of all thefts occurred in Southern California (Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties).
- Approximately 27 percent of all vehicle thefts occurred in Los Angeles County.
- Approximately 15 percent of the thefts occurred in the San Francisco Bay Area (Alameda, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties).
- Approximately six percent of all the thefts occurred in Sacramento County.
- Approximately three percent of all the thefts occurred in Fresno County.
- Top ten law enforcement agencies reporting the incidence of vehicle thefts:

1. Los Angeles Police Department (25,743)	6. San Jose Police Department (6,867)
2. Los Angeles County Sheriff (18,109)	7. San Francisco Police Department (6,475)
3. San Diego Police Department (14,234)	8. Sacramento Police Department (6,122)
4. Oakland Police Department (7,479)	9. California Highway Patrol (5,423)
5. Riverside County Sheriff (7,222)	10. San Bernadino County Sheriff (5,083)

VEHICLE THEFT TRENDS

- The Honda Accord ranks as the number one stolen vehicle statewide and the Honda Civic and Toyota Camry are ranked at number two and three respectively. From 1991 through 1998, the same features which made the Oldsmobile Cutlass ever-popular with thieves, has made the Honda and Toyota models popular. With high resale value, there is an abundance of Hondas and Toyotas on the road and consumer demand is high. Additionally, their parts are interchangeable with similar models from year-to-year.
- Since 1984, Toyota has ranked as the most frequently stolen pickup truck. Its popularity is due to its resale value, abundance, interchangeable parts, and easily defeated locking mechanisms.

- Freightliner commercial trucks ranked as the number one stolen vehicle in their category. Kenworth farm equipment ranked as the number one stolen vehicle in its category. These vehicles and equipment are popular targets because of their high resale value, popularity, and availability.

VEHICLE RECOVERIES

- Of the 227,412 vehicles stolen statewide in 2007, 200,473 or 88.2 percent were successfully recovered.
- Of the vehicles stolen statewide, 93.6 percent of the automobiles, 40.8 percent of the motorcycles, 88.4 percent of the personal trucks and vans, and 82.7 percent of the commercial trucks were recovered.
- Of the total recovered vehicles, 59.8 percent were intact and in drivable condition; 4.5 percent were missing major components; 13.2 percent were stripped of minor parts; and the remaining 22.5 percent were intentionally burned and/or wrecked.
- The theft of vehicles containing cargo/commodities continues to rise statewide. Stolen vehicles containing cargo/commodities, by comparison, to overall vehicle theft is low. However, the theft of these vehicles for their cargo represents a significant financial loss to the citizens of California.
- Top ten law enforcement agencies reporting vehicle theft recoveries:

1. Los Angeles Police Department (22,223)	6. San Francisco Police Department (5,961)
2. Los Angeles County Sheriff (15,846)	7. Riverside County Sheriff (5,701)
3. San Diego Police Department (10,056)	8. Sacramento Police Department (5,595)
4. Oakland Police Department (6,928)	9. California Highway Patrol (4,787)
5. San Jose Police Department (6,416)	10. San Bernardino County Sheriff (4,098)

INFORMATION SOURCES

Department of Justice Stolen Vehicle System, California Highway Patrol Vehicle Theft Information System, and Department of Motor Vehicles.